

CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS 1, 20, 31, 33-36 and 39 to be substituted  
for counterpart claims:

1. (Twice Amended) An article comprising:

a gasoline engine having an exhaust outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet; and

a close coupled catalyst located less than about one foot from the engine and in communication with the exhaust outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet to be exposed to temperatures up to at least 920°C, the close coupled catalyst comprising a close coupled catalyst composition having substantially no oxygen storage components, the catalyst composition comprising:

a support;

a palladium component;

optionally, at least one alkaline metal oxide selected from the group consisting of strontium oxide, calcium oxide and barium oxide;

optionally, at least one platinum group metal component selected from the group consisting of platinum, rhodium, ruthenium and iridium components; and

optionally, at least one rare earth oxide selected from the group consisting of neodymium oxide and lanthanum oxide.

20. (Twice Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

operating a gasoline engine, having an exhaust gas outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet;

passing an exhaust gas stream comprising carbon monoxide hydrocarbons, and optionally nitrogen oxide, from the exhaust gas outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet of the gasoline engine to a close coupled catalyst, located less than about one foot from the engine and in communication with the exhaust outlet or an exhaust gas manifold outlet to be exposed to temperatures up to at least 920°C, the

close coupled catalyst comprising a close coupled catalyst composition;

contacting the exhaust gas with the close coupled catalyst composition, the close coupled catalyst composition having substantially no oxygen storage components, the catalyst composition comprising:

a support;

a palladium component;

optionally, at least one alkaline metal oxide selected from the group consisting of strontium oxide, calcium oxide and barium oxide;

optionally, at least one platinum group metal component selected from the group consisting of platinum, rhodium, ruthenium and iridium components; and

optionally, at least one rare earth oxide selected from the group consisting of neodymium oxide and lanthanum oxide; and

oxidizing at least some of the hydrocarbon and only a portion carbon monoxide in the presence of the close coupled catalyst.

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31. (Amended) The article as recited in claim 1 wherein the close coupled catalyst composition is thermally stable upon exposure to temperatures up to 1100°C.

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33. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 1 wherein the close coupled catalyst composition further comprises at least one alkaline metal oxide selected from the group consisting of strontium oxide, calcium oxide and barium oxide.

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34. (Amended) The article as recited in claims 1 further comprising at least one platinum group metal component selected from platinum, rhodium, ruthenium and iridium components.